

Message Text

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11

ACTION AF-06

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SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /082 W

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R 131700Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7798

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

CONFIDENTIAL YAOUNDE 0579

E.O.: 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR AO CM

SUBJ: TOUR D'HORIZON WITH MINISTER SENGAT KUO: ANGOLA, THE US,
AND THE SOVIETS

REF: STATE 31037

1. SUMMARY: MINISTER AT PRESIDENCY SENGAT KUO IS DEEPLY CONCERNED ABOUT USSR GAINING PERMANENT FOOTHOLDS IN AFRICA FROM WHICH TO INTERFERE IN AFRICAN AFFAIRS. HE EXPECTS MPLA TO SOLIDATE ITS POSITION BEFORE ACHIEVING COMPROMISE WITH OTHER ANGOLAN FORCES, AND BEFORE CUBANS DEPART. HE BLAMED DETERIORATING POSITION IN ANGOLA ON US CONGRESS AND "EXCESSIVE DEMOCRACY". END SUMMARY.

2. MINISTER AT PRESIDENCY SENGAT KUO HAVING BEEN AWAY AND/OR SICK FOR SEVERAL MONTHS, I TOOK OCCASION OF CALL ON HIM TO MAKE RELEVANT POINTS OF REFTEL. HE JUSTIFIED CAMEROON'S RECOGNITION OF MPLA ON GROUNDS OF OBVIOUS DETERIORATION OF MILITARY SITUATION AND SUGGESTED GURC HAD SOME SLIGHT HOPE OF BEING ABLE TO

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INFLUENCE MPLA AND ITS AFRICAN SUPPORTERS IN A MODERATE DIRECTION. HE DOES NOT EXPECT, HOWEVER, THAT THERE IS REAL POSSIBILITY OF COALITION GOVERNMENT IN ANGOLA UNTIL AFTER VICTORIOUS MPLA HAS TAKEN FULL ADVANTAGE OF ITS MILITARY VICTORY AND CONSOLIDATED ITS POSITION IN COUNTRY. NOR DOES HE EXPECT CUBAN TROOPS TO LEAVE UNTIL THIS CONSOLIDATION COMPLETE.

3. AFRICAN STATES SYMPATHETIC TO MPLA AND TO SOVIETS, AND EVEN SOME MODERATES, SEE GOOD IN ANGOLA OUTCOME, IN THAT IT WILL FACILITATE JOINT BLACK AFRICAN ACTIONS AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA AND NAMIBIA. SENGAT KUO HAS DOUBTS ABOUT THIS AND REFERRED IN VERY RESTRAINED WAY TO "INDELICATE UNTIMELY, AND INOPPORTUNE" SOUTH AFRICAN INTERVENTION IN ANGOLA. AFRICAN FRIENDS OF US WERE DISMAYED BY CONGRESSIONAL VOTES AND THE HEAVY AND WIDESPREAD PUBLICITY THEY RECEIVED. HE THOUGHT THAT ONE COULD SPEAK OF "EXCESSIVE DEMOCRACY" IN THE UNITED STATES AT PRESENT. I TOLD HIM OF ADMINISTRATION'S FIRM POSITION. HE SAID THAT U.S. AFRICAN FRIENDS HAVE DOUBTS ABOUT AMERICAN "ENGAGEMENT" IN AFRICA. IN THAT CONTEXT, HE OPINED THAT VISIT BY SECRETARY AND OTHER PROMINENT U.S. OFFICIALS WOULD BE ALL TO THE GOOD, ESPECIALLY IF THEY WERE PLANNED AND PUBLICIZED AHEAD OF TIME, UNLIKE A VISIT LIKE ASST SECRETARY SCHAUFELER'S LAST DECEMBER, WHICH CREATED CERTAIN DIFFICULTIES FOR COUNTRIES THAT RECEIVED HIM, LIKE CAMEROON. SENGAT KUO BELIEVES IN BENEFITS OF PERSONAL ACQUAINTANCE AMONG LEADERS IN NON-CRISIS SITUATIONS AND FEELS SECRETARY'S VISIT TO AFRICA WOULD BE PARTICULARLY USEFUL IN ORDER TO REASSURE FRIENDLY AFRICANS THAT U.S. HAS PERMANENT INTEREST IN AFRICA.

4. HE SAYS GURC IS QUITE CONCERNED THAT SOVIETS WILL GET SEVERAL FOOTHOLDS IN AFRICA, INCLUDING ANGOLA, EQUATORIAL GUINEA, MOZAMBIQUE, IN NONE OF WHICH CAMEROON HAS EMBASSIES. THIS MIGHT RESULT IN PERMANENT SOVIET ABILITY TO INTERFERE IN AFRICAN AFFAIRS, A HIGHLY DISEQUILIBRATING SITUATION. HE SEES NO EARLY OPPORTUNITY TO PREVENT THIS.

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